

Chemical, Biological, and Radiological Defense

MEMORANDUM *of* UNDERSTANDING

(CBR MOU)



May 2007

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Chemical, Biological, and Radiological Defense **MEMORANDUM** *of* **UNDERSTANDING** (CBR MOU)

The CBR MOU is an agreement between the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia for the purpose of improving their mutual CBR defense capabilities. The four member nations have a common interest to defend their armed forces against weapons of mass destruction and a mutual need to develop improved CBR defense materiel. Each nation entered the CBR MOU because it recognizes the benefits of standardization, burden sharing, and interoperability.

THE NEED FOR COOPERATION

The transformation from the Cold War to an expanded battlespace brings new and evolving threats. Adversaries now have access to and are willing to use Chemical, Biological, and Radiological (CBR) weapons. As nations adapt to this environment of global conflict, they must integrate CBR defense into not only their own national military strategy but also into their coalition operations. The CBR MOU is a necessary agreement that addresses CBR threats by focusing on four key areas:

- Capability Development
- Operational Requirements
- Policy
- Doctrine



Our **OBJECTIVE** is to *improve* the mutual CBR defense capabilities of participants *through greater cooperation in research, development, acquisition, doctrine, operations, and training* of chemical, biological, and radiological defense.

THE TOOLS FOR COLLABORATION

International Task Forces

International Task Forces (ITFs) are special working groups that address well-defined, high-priority issues and problems. The task forces have a limited duration, typically 12 to 24 months. The current ITFs include:

- **ITF 46:** Challenge Levels
- **ITF 52:** Analytical Methods for Determination of Chemical Warfare Agents

Working Groups

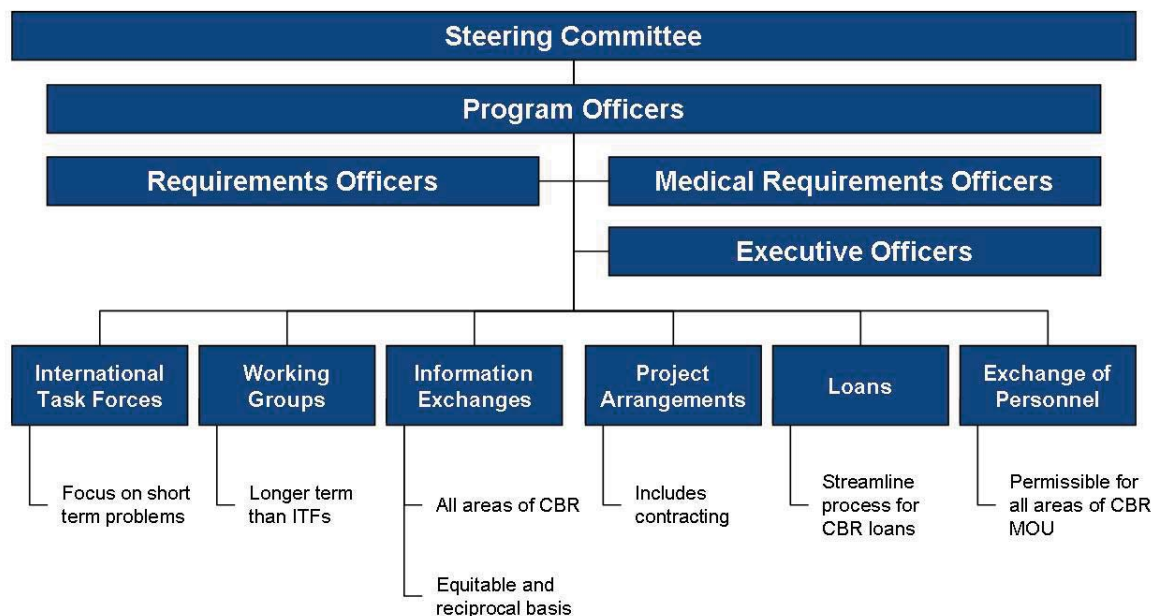
Working Groups (WGs) address long-term, high-priority issues and problems. The groups have a longer duration, typically several years, where they work to achieve interoperability of CBR defense materiel by coalescing the requirements of all member nations. The WGs identify development resources that can be combined to produce a single item, satisfying the needs of all member nations.

- Tripartite Threat Agent Assessment Working Group
- Medical Countermeasures Coordination Team
- Medical Countermeasures to Nontraditional Agents Working Group
- Test and Evaluation Working Group
- Detection and Diagnostics Reagents Working Group
- Bio Detection Working Group
- Stand-off Bio Detection Working Group
- Site Remediation Working Group
- Information Systems Working Group

CBR MOU Roadmap

A major focus is the development of the CBR MOU Roadmap, which will display the chemical, biological, and radiological (CBR) capabilities of its member nations from now through the next 15 years. For members, the Roadmap's vision is to achieve the ability to function in any environment, unencumbered by CBR effects or threats. To achieve this vision the Roadmap's mission is to identify, develop and implement multinational capabilities to operate globally. A salient feature of the Roadmap is its promotion of an environment that allows members to envisage future requirements while developing the means to satisfy them. Henceforth, the efforts of the CBR MOU aspire to produce efficacious programs designed to enhance all members' CBR postures.

CBR MOU STRUCTURE



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